Little Missouri River Bridge
Spanning Little Missouri River at County Road 179
Old Rome vicinity
Clark County
Arkansas

HAER No. AR-44

HAER
ARK,
10-OLRO.V,
1-

PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Engineering Record
National Park Service
Department of the Interior
Washington, DC 20013-7127

HAER
ARK.
10-OLRO.V,
1-

HISTORIC AMERICAN ENGINEERING RECORD

LITTLE MISSOURI RIVER BRIDGE

HAER NO. AR-44

LOCATION:	Spanning the Little Missouri River on Clark County Road 179 near the town of Old Rome, Clark County, Arkansas. UTM: 15/3751260/471380 Quad: Okolona South
DATE OF CONSTRUCTION:	ca. 1910
PRESENT CONDITION AND USE:	This bridge is in fair condition and is being used for vehicular traffic.
STYLE:	Single span, through Camelback steel truss.
BUILDER:	Unknown. It is assumed that this bridge was constructed under the authority of Clark County officials by an unidentified bridge company.
ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:	AHTD Bridge No. 20103, AHPP Resource No. CL0742.
SIGNIFICANCE:	The Little Missouri River Bridge is the last remaining Camelback through truss steel bridge in Arkansas. A recent inventory of the historic bridges in the state conducted by the Arkansas Highway and Transportation Department showed that out of the 241 steel truss bridges remaining in use today, this bridge is the last of its type.
HISTORIAN:	Michael Swanda Survey Coordinator Arkansas Historic Preservation Program August 26, 1988.

STRUCTURAL SYSTEMS

The Little Missouri River Bridge consists of one main span Camelback through truss, one Pratt through truss approach, and two steel I-beam approach spans, one on each end. The through steel truss spans are pin connected. The top chord and the majority of the verticals are constructed from built-up members made from channels, continuous plates and batten plates, riveted together. The bottom chord and some diagonals are rectangular bars. The majority of the diagonals, and laterals, both top and bottom, are round rod. Portal bracing is made from angle iron. Floor girders and stringers are I-beams. The piers are cylindrical steel rings riveted together and filled with concrete. Both trusses have a guardrail made from angles. The end approach spans are steel I-beam constructed. The roadway is covered with timber planking.

DIMENSIONS

This bridge is 313 feet long with a main span length of 177 feet.

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

Bridge Division Files, Arkansas Highway and Transportation Department, Little Rock.

Historic Bridge File, Arkansas Historic Preservation Program, Little Rock.

McClurkan, Burney B. Arkansas' Historic Bridge Inventory, Evaluation Procedures 1987 and Preservation Plan. Manuscript of file, Environmental Division, Arkansas Highway and Transportation Department, Little Rock.

ADDENDUM TO:
LITTLE MISSOURI RIVER BRIDGE
Spanning Little Missouri River at CR 179
Okolona
Clark County
Arkansas

HAER AR-44
ARK,10-OLRO.V,1-

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

HISTORIC AMERICAN ENGINEERING RECORD
National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior
1849 C Street NW
Washington, DC 20240-0001

HISTORIC AMERICAN ENGINEERING RECORD

ADDENDUM TO
LITTLE MISSOURI RIVER BRIDGE

HAER No. AR-44

This report is an addendum to a 2 page report previously transmitted to the Library of Congress.

Location:	Spanning Little Missouri River at CR 179 (former US 67), between Okolona, Clark County, Arkansas and Prescott, Nevada County, Arkansas NOTE: The earlier documentation listed the bridge as located in Old Rome vicinity, Clark County, Arkansas.
UTM:	15.471365.3751458, Okolona South, Arkansas Quad.
AHTD#:	20103
Structural Type:	Camelback through truss
Construction Date:	1907-08; rehabilitated 1980
Designer:	John I. Boggs, Little Rock, Arkansas[1]
Builder:	Morava Construction Company, Chicago, Illinois (1889-1908+)[2]
Owner:	Clark County, Arkansas
Previous Use:	Vehicular bridge
Present Use:	Closed to traffic since 1996
Significance:	The Little Missouri River Bridge was erected in 1907-08 at a cost of $11,200.[3] It is one of only three extant camelback truss bridges identified in the Arkansas Highway and Transportation Department historic bridges database.[4] A modification of the standard 1844 Pratt truss, the camelback truss has a polygonal upper chord of exactly five slopes, which is the most economical way to increase the depth of the truss at mid-span where

[1] *Clark County Court Records*, Book J (1904-1908), 517.
[2] *Clark County Court Records*, Book K (1908-1911), 54. This company also built Little Cossatot River Bridge (1908) in Sevier County, Arkansas, see HAER No. AR-35.
[3] *Clark County Court Records*, Book J (1904-1908), 549.
[4] See also HAER No. AR-70, Ward's Crossing Bridge (1905) and HAER No. AR-66, Nimrod Bridge (1908).

maximum bending occurs. The camelback truss was popular in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries for spans of about 130' to 200'.

Project Information: The Arkansas Historic Bridges Recording Project is part of the Historic American Engineering Record (HAER), a long-range program that documents historically significant engineering sites and structures in the United States. HAER is administered by the Heritage Documentation Programs Division of the National Park Service, United States Department of the Interior, Richard O'Connor, Manager. The Arkansas State Highway and Transportation Department sponsored this project.

Lola Bennett, HAER Historian, 2007

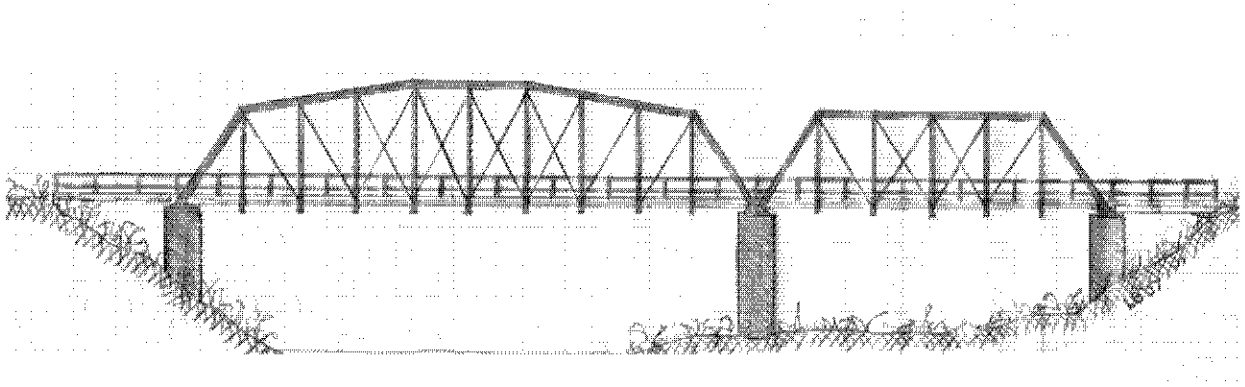
Sources

Arkansas Highway and Transportation Department. Bridge Records: Bridge No. 20103.

Clark County, Arkansas, Past and Present. Arkadelphia: Clark County Historical Society, 1992.

Clark County Court Records, Book J (1904-1908) and Book K (1908-1911). Clark County Courthouse, Arkadelphia, Arkansas.

Swanda, Michael. "Little Missouri River Bridge," Historic American Engineering Record, Washington, D.C., 1988, HAER No. AR-44.



Little Missouri River Bridge Sketch
(Lola Bennett, 2007)